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**From:** Matt Friedrichs <friedrichs.matt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 10:02 AM  
**To:**   
**Subject:** Objection to House Bill 4637

Hi,

My name is Matthew Friedrichs and I am a resident of Detroit.

I am writing to the committee today in order to voice my objection to House Bill 4637.

My understanding is that the bill seeks to change 3 things within the Regional Transit Authority Act.

- 1) It makes it so a municipality, as opposed to just a counties, adjacent to a the transit region may choose to join the RTA.
- 2) Makes it so that a county or municipality may opt out of the RTA by a majority vote of its governing body within the first year of the RTAs creation.
- 3) Similar to two, after the first year, municipalities or Counties could opt out with a 2/3 vote of their elected governing officials.

My main objection lies with the ease with which municipalities and counties can opt out. In my opinion the RTA Act was put in place with the understanding that the issues facing Southeastern Michigan as well as its successes are not localized to individual counties or municipalities but rather must be faced as a region. This bill would compromise that philosophy by exposing its unity to being fractured by the whims of a particular local government officials.

Moreover, it attacks the idea that though a public transit line may not run through a particular area that area still benefits from the larger system of transit. For justification of this idea committee members may look at cities across the country or even examples more close to home like Grand Rapids.

Of course, in the event that a area contained withing the RTA is truly not benefiting the ability to opt out may prove necessary. However, I argue that this power, at the least, should be constrained to the county level and determined by a popular vote.

Thank you very much.

Matt Friedrichs